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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **THE COUNTY OF FRESNO RESPONDS TO THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE CREEK FIRE INVESTIGATION**

The U.S. Forest Service shared the results of their investigation on the cause of the Creek Fire that began on September 4, 2020 and was officially extinguished on Dec 24, 2020. The thorough investigation yielded an undetermined cause of the fire, with the probability that it was a lightning strike. Though the investigation excluded some potential causes, it did not exclude other possible causes such as arson or smoking activities. There was also no evidence of an illegal marijuana grove or incendiary eradication of one.

The Creek Fire burned 379,895 acres and destroyed 853 structures. The cost to combat and extinguish the fire was \$193 million. The cost of recovery and rebuilding is estimated to exceed \$500 million.

The County of Fresno continues to work with those affected to provide support and different types of assistance to meet their needs, from tree and debris removal to expediting the process to rebuild. The County's resources are featured on its web page, Fresno County Recovers (<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/resources/fresno-county-recovers>).

Supervisor Nathan Magsig from District 5 stated, "I'm grateful the U.S. Forest Service released their report. It's unfortunate that the cause of the fire is listed as undetermined as it's hard for the residents and those who lost so much to find closure. The County continues to support those affected with a variety of services that we offer."

The media can contact Supervisor Magsig at 559-917-4336 for any comments.

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